GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2531
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
MISSING FISHERMEN
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the families of 4 fishermen missing since February 8, 2001 while fishing at Al-Khor Coast of Qatar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the diplomatic initiatives made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a & b) Yes, Sir. The Government`s attention has been drawn to the plight of the families of four fishermen hailing from Kanyakumari District in Tamilnadu, who have been missing since 8th February, 2001, while fishing at Al-Khor Coast of Qatar.

(c) After they were reported missing, the Indian Embassy in Doha (Qatar) had taken up the matter with the Qatari authorities requesting them to conduct immediate search operations to trace the whereabouts of these fishermen. The Qatar Coast Guard authorities had undertaken extensive search operations for several days to locate these fishermen, but without any success. Our Embassy has been in constant touch with the authorities in Qatar and are following it up regularly seeking information on their whereabouts.

Apart from the Government of Qatar the matter had also been taken up with the Governments of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Dubai and Abu Dhabi through our Missions.